AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Original) A structure for use in the manufacture of a patterned thin film magnetic recording medium, comprising:

a non-magnetic substrate including at least one major surface; and

a layer of a glass or glass-like material on said major surface of said substrate, said layer of glass or glass-like material including an exposed surface having a pattern of recesses formed therein by a process comprising steps of:

(a) providing a non-magnetic substrate having a major surface;

(b) providing a stamper having a recess-patterned surface comprising a negative image of said pattern of recesses to be formed in said medium;

(c) forming a layer of a spin-coated, partially dried sol-gel material on said recess-patterned surface of said stamper, said layer comprising a micro-porous structure of silica (SiO_2) particles with solvents saturated in the micro-pores thereof, said layer having a first surface in conformal contact with said recess-patterned surface of said stamper and an exposed second surface opposite said first surface;

(d) urging said major surface of said substrate into contact with said exposed second surface of said layer of partially dried sol-gel material;

(e) removing said recess-patterned surface of said stamper from contact with said first surface of said layer of partially dried sol-gel material while leaving said second surface of said layer of partially dried sol-gel material in contact with said major surface of said substrate, whereby said layer of partially dried sol-gel material is transferred to said major surface of said substrate, such that said first surface of said layer of partially dried sol-gel material is exposed and includes a positive image of said pattern of recesses; and

(f) converting said layer of partially dried sol-gel material to a glass or glass-like layer while preserving said pattern of recesses in said exposed first surface thereof.

15. (Original) The structure as in claim 14, wherein said non-magnetic substrate comprises a disk-shaped, high modulus substrate having a pair of major surfaces and is comprised of a glass, ceramic, or glass-ceramic material.

16. (Original) The structure as in claim 14, wherein said pattern of recesses in said exposed surface of said glass or glass-like layer forms a servo pattern for said magnetic recording medium.

17. (Original) The structure as in claim 16, wherein said recesses are from about 1 to about 500 nm deep, from about .001 to about 1 μm wide, and adjacent recesses are spaced apart at least about .001 μm.

18. (Original) A servo-patterned magnetic recording medium, comprising the structure as in claim 17 and a laminate of thin film layers formed thereover, said laminate including seed, underlayer, magnetic recording, protective overcoat, and lubricant topcoat layers sequentially formed over said exposed first surface of said glass or glass-like layer including said positive image of said servo pattern formed therein.

19. (Original) A magnetic recording medium, comprising:

a non-magnetic substrate having a surface; and

sol-gel-based or derived means for providing a servo pattern which precisely replicates a master servo pattern formed in a surface of a stamper.

20. (Original) The magnetic recording medium as in claim 19, wherein:

said sol-gel-based or derived means comprises a glass or glass-like layer on said surface of said non-magnetic substrate.